

Message Text

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15

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4531

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0388

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SUBJ :HOMELANDS:THE FINAL SOLUTION

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. SAG HAS ANNOUNCED ITS FINAL LAND PURCHASE AND CONSOLIDATION PLANS FOR 'BANTUSTANS' WHICH WILL FULFILL, BUT NOT EXCEED, LEVELS ESTABLISHED BY THE 1936 LAND ACT. PLANS MAKE MINOR CHANGES IN CONSOLIDATION SCHEME PRESENTED IN 1973 AND WILL NECESSITATE REMOVAL OF ALMOST ONE-HALF MILLION AFRICANS AND MUCH SMALLER NUMBER OF WHITES OVER TEN-YEAR PERIOD. NUMBER OF PIECES OF TERRITORY IN EACH HOMELAND WILL BE LOWERED, BUT FRAGMENTED NATURE OF MOST OF THEM WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED. PLAN WILL PROBABLY MEET STRONG UNITED PARTY OPPOSITION AND HAS ALREADY BEEN CRITICIZED BY HOMELAND LEADERS AS UNFAIR AND INADEQUATE. END SUMMARY.

2. MINIBANTU AFFAIRS BOTHA DROPPED GOVERNMENT'S FINAL HOMELAND-CONSOLIDATION AND LAND PURCHASE PLAN ON PARLIAMENT ON EVE OF LONG EASTER RECESS. NEW PROPOSALS AUGMENT UNCLASSIFIED

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THOSE MADE IN 1973 AND, WHEN FINALLY IMPLEMENTED OVER

COURSE OF TEN YEARS, WILL COMPLETE PURCHASE OF AMOUNT OF TERRITORY PROMISED TO AFRICANS IN TERMS OF 1936 BANTU TRUST AND LAND ACT. GOVERNMENT HAS CONSISTENTLY ASSERTED THAT IT WILL NOT GO BEYOND LIMIT OF 6,209,847 HECTARES PROVIDED FOR IN ACT. HOMELAND LEADERS AND OTHERS HAVE BEEN EQUALLY FERVENT IN ARGUING THAT AMOUNT IS INSUFFICIENT. ESTIMATES BASED ON NEW BLUEPRINT INDICATE 130,000 MORE AFRICANS THAN THE 360,000 FIGURE CONTEMPLATED IN 1973 PLAN WILL BE MOVED. UNDETERMINED, BUT MUCH SMALLER, NUMBER OF WHITES WILL ALSO BE 'REMOVED'.

3. BY GRANTING NEW LAND TO THAT ALREADY ALLOCATED TO INDIVIDUAL HOMELANDS, BY EXCISING OTHER TERRITORY WHICH HOMELANDS HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN GRANTED, AND BY GERRYMANDERING BOUNDRIES, NEW CONSOLIDATION PLAN WILL REDUCE NUMBER OF PIECES OF LAND IN MANY HOMELANDS. THE ARCHIPELAGO OF KWAZULU'S FORTY-EIGHT AREAS WILL DIMINISH TO TEN, BOPHUTHATSWANA'S NINETEEN TO SIX, LEBOWA'S TWELVE TO SIX, AND THE CISCIE'S SEVENTEEN TO THREE.

4. MOST PUBLICIZED TRANSFER IS THAT OF SMALL WHITE RESORT AND FARMING ENCLAVE OF PORT ST. JOHNS, WHICH WILL NOW 'GO BLACK' AS PART OF THE TRANSKEI. SAG HAD TENTATIVELY MADE THIS DECISION IN NOVEMBER 1973, BUT APPOINTED STUDY COMMITTEE WHEN FACED WITH STRONG OPPOSITION FROM LOCAL WHITES. ADDITION OF PORT ST. JOHNS, PLUS SOME RICH FARMLAND AND THE RECENTLY AGREED UPON DECISION OF TWO CISCIE DISTRICTS TO THE TRANSKEI (DURBAN 109) SHOULD FURTHER SMOOTH PATH TO TRANSKEI INDEPENDENCE. PRESS REPORTS CHIEF MANTANZIMA PLEASE BY NEW ALLOCATIONS. IN RETURN FOR AGREEING TO CESSION OF TWO OF ITS DISTRICTS TO TRANSKEI, CISCIE IS BEING REWARDED WITH COMPARABLE LARGE GRANTS OF LAND.

5. MOST SIGNIFICANT AND EXTENSIVE READJUSTMENTS OCCUR IN NATAL WHERE, AMONG OTHER CHANGES, GOVERNMENT PLANS TO ALLOCATE 215,000 HECTARES STATE-OWNED MAKHATINI FLATS ZONE, INCLUDING AREA ABUTTING MOZAMBIQUE BORDER, TO KWAZULU. SAG ALSO PLANS LARGE SCALE REMOVAL OF BLACKS IN UPPER TUGELA RIVER REGION. THIS HAS ALREADY MET WITH CONSIDERABLE OPPOSITION FROM WHITE FARMERS IN AREA AND WILL SERVE TO UNCLASSIFIED

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GALVANIZE TRADITIONAL OPPOSITION OF UNITED PARTY (POLITICAL HEARTLAND OF WHICH IS NATAL) TO SAG LAND PURCHASES FOR AFRICANS WHEN PARLIAMENT REASSEMBLES. HOWEVER, OVERWHELMING GOVERNMENT MAJORITY IN PARLIAMENT ENSURES EASY PASSAGE OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SAG TO PROCEED WITH PLAN.

6. IN STATEMENT REPRESENTATIVE OF VIEWS OF MOST HOMELAND LEADERS,

LEBOWA CHIEF MINISTER DR. CEDRIC PHATUDI CRITICIZED
PLAN AS UNILATERAL' ACTION PACT OF SAG WHICH WILL LEAVE
BLACK AREAS FRAGMENTED AND WILL MEAN HARDSHIP FOR THOUSANDS
OF AFRICANS WHO ARE TO BE REMOVED. PHATUDI ALSO ARGUED
THAT ANY CONSOLIDATION PLAN WHICH DOES NOT INCLUDE
LINKING BLACK HOMELANDS WITH THE WHITE TOWNS THEY SURROUND IS
NEITHER ACCEPTABLE NOR WORKABLE.

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